

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A tarpaulin system for an open cargo hold for a vehicle and a method for repairing the tarpaulin system. The tarpaulin system includes a tarpaulin with a number of ribs or bows releasably connected along its length. A

5 movable cable is provided on the cargo hold and the bows are releasably connected to this cable by brackets. The brackets have mounting flanges and cable followers, the mounting flanges being releasably connected to the bows and the cable followers being releasably connected to the cable. When the cable is drawn toward the rear of the cargo hold, the brackets and the

10 bows and tarpaulin connected thereto are drawn toward the rear end of the cargo hold. When the cable is drawn toward the front of the cargo hold, the brackets and therefore the bows and tarpaulin, are drawn toward the front of the cargo hold. If a bow or connecting bracket breaks within the tarpaulin system, it may be disconnected from the tarpaulin and the cable and a

15 replacement component may be reconnected to both the tarpaulin and the cable without disassembly of the entire tarpaulin system.